

TESTIMONY AND CASE IN CHIEF

NORTH DELTA CARES – BARBARA DALY

I, Barbara Daly, on behalf of the public group, North Delta CARES, have lived in the Delta since 1992. I finished out my career at Pacific Bell in 1992, and my husband and I purchased a marina in Rio Vista and acreage in Clarksburg at that time. We had five young children then who went through the schools in Clarksburg and are now out on their own.

During this time of raising the children, I had the opportunity to spend a lot of time driving them to and from friend's homes, and school activities in the North Delta between Rio Vista and Clarksburg.

In April, 2009, I received a notification in my mail box that my property in Clarksburg was under potential threat of being taken over by the State of California and I was invited to learn more about this at a BDCP meeting that was scheduled to be held in Clarksburg that month.

I attended this meeting and then became involved in order to give back and to serve my community.

MY COMMUNITY IS THE DELTA.

The California Delta is a unique place, distinguished by its diverse geography, vibrant natural resources, rich agricultural heritage and its legacy communities. The people of the Delta envision a future where these unique Delta qualities are recognized and honored, including the attributes of the Delta's historic towns. The California WaterFix and its components, will literally destroy these qualities and attributes and cause undue hardship on the people there.

There are 11 Legacy towns, with 9 of them are in the North Delta; namely Freeport, Clarksburg, Hood, Courtland, Locke, Walnut Grove, Ryde, Isleton, and Rio Vista.

All the Delta Legacy Towns are to be recognized and protected. It is required by the Delta Plan and the Delta Reform Act of 2009. Why? Because, these towns were pivotal in the formation of California's early history. As the 18-49's came over the land the other half of the miners came by boat and began their journey to the gold fields in the San Francisco Bay. These people were called Argonauts and they took schooners up the Sacramento River to the newly formed settlement of Sacramento. Old Sacramento was a destination where they would purchase their mining supplies before they headed to the gold fields. Another related tourist attraction is Sutter's Fort where mine and many of the local children visit to learn about the early California

history. The Sacramento River was the I-5 of its day and after the Chinese laborers finished the railroads across the country, they stayed on to build the levees to reclaim the rich Delta soil for farming.

This historical and rich agricultural place is now in danger of being destroyed through proposed construction of water outtakes and tunnel construction. The Legacy communities of Clarksburg, Hood and Courtland are in direct line with the construction of the California WaterFix project.

Walnut Grove and Locke are also examples of the earliest settlements in California along the Sacramento River. They offer interesting looks into our State's earliest settlers lives with the town of Locke being on the National Historic Register and opens 5 museums to tourists, and many of the buildings in Walnut Grove were also built in the 1850's.

But the area does not just depend on its most central neighbors of Locke and Walnut Grove to bring in tourists. To the south, Isleton has recently had its Chinese roots acknowledged and supported by the restoration of the Bing Kong Tong building, a place where the early Chinese would congregate to translate languages, settle disputes, and find socialize with their friends. In addition, Rio Vista has two museums and I take many visitors to the area to the Dutra Museum of Dredging. Here is where a tourist or student will learn about how the Delta levees were built in the 1870's and this is where Humphrey the Humpback Whale got lost in 1985.

All of the businesses of the Delta are related and interdependent – whether supported by the agriculture industry or the recreation/tourism industry. Fishing guides and boaters depend on the marina's for supplies, and fuel, Marinas without food services rely on local food markets or restaurants to serve visitors. Most brick and mortar businesses depend on visitors and tourists spending time and money in the Delta.

The businesses involved in recreation and tourism have been on the rise in the Delta. This is partly due to the increasing number of wineries and wine tasting venues in the Clarksburg area where the water intake farthest to the north is planned. New tourism businesses have been developing to accommodate the interest in local farming, much of this brought to the forefront by Mayor Kevin Johnson's declaration that Sacramento is the Farm to Fork Capital of California. Clarksburg was settled in 1850, the year California became a State. It is a short 15 mile drive from our State Capitol and offers wine tasting at close to 30 venues now with more being added every year. New maps of the region have been designed to help tourists find their way to visit the Delta whatever their interest may be; history, bird watching, wine tasting, museum hopping, "Mayberry-type communities" and of course, the view of the Sacramento River as they drive along the wining river roads.

Protecting the Delta and all it has to offer is important. In 2009, I joined a grass roots effort called North Delta CARES (Community Area Residents for Environmental Stability). We are concerned about DWR's interest in taking the water from this area of the Sacramento River to deliver to other parts of the State. I don't believe any of us here in the Delta have ever denied that people need water to drink, and that crops need water to grow. We want the best choices made for the whole State, and we want our futures to be fair and equitable. The research we have done on the BDCP, EIR/EIS documents and Delta Plan, lead us to believe that adaptive management is too questionable, and that sacrificing one farming region for another, is not fair and equitable state policy.

We take exception that the EIR/EIS did not take recreational expenditures in the Delta into account when it created the Environmental Review and as they state, "Changes in employment and increases associated with changes in recreation expenditures were not established using a regional IMPLAN model because direct changes in recreation expenditures have not been quantified."

The value of this region to the State of California goes way beyond being a hub of water transfers. Construction of the proposed intakes and underground conveyance would adversely impact well-established recreational/tourism opportunities because of impaired access, noise and visual setting disruption. People do not go into a construction zone to relax, recreate, or have a glass of wine. Historical ambience will be bulldozed and old buildings will fall from the shaking caused by heavy trucks and pile driving movement. I'm not an expert on what fish-love, but I think they are pretty sensitive to this kind of heavy duty construction next to the levees where they have swam for many, many years. This Delta area would become, "cut off" from people, fish and wildlife.

Personally, I have created a Tour business that takes people through the Delta to visit the Legacy Towns and to enjoy the restaurants, museums and the wineries of the Delta. I have taken tourists to all of the Legacy communities and I can speak to all of the aspects of this experience. Approving this petition by DWR and USBR and the aspects of its construction would be in direct conflict with the Delta Reform Act and the Delta Plan which state that the "water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place"; Water Code Section 85054.

A first step toward protecting the Delta is to reduce the risk to people, property and State interests. We the people of North Delta CARES request that you deny the Petitioners' requests in this Hearing.

Witness Nicky Suard will testify on her experience of recreational boating in the Delta. She has been a Delta ambassador and has collected many of maps of the Region. She has direct knowledge of how DWR's CalFed and BDCP programs have negatively impacted the Delta's recreation and tourism business already. She foresees the negative impacts to intensify from the construction of these water intakes and conveyance facilities. She has observed how CalFed and BDCP activities have reduced recognition of the Delta as a recreation and tourism destination and she asserts that the diversion of water from the Delta suspended it into a ten-year drought.

Witness James Motlow will testify regarding the threat to the Legacy towns, specifically Locke and Walnut Grove. A recent Delta Plan amendment approved by the Delta Stewardship Council has implicated Locke and Walnut Grove with increasing diversions at the Delta Cross Channel and Georgiana Slough which are both located in the Delta Legacy towns of Locke and Walnut Grove.

Witness Mark Pruner will testify that the community of Clarksburg will be negatively impacted by the construction of the California Waterfix and that proponents have not proposed mitigation. He asserts that the proposed project fails to meet the mandatory requirements set out in the second sentence of Water Code Section 85054.

*/signed/ Barbara Daly*